

**Notice of Exemption**

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**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
PO Box 3044  
1400 Tenth Street, Rm 2  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**From:** Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Marine Region  
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

**Project Title:** California Estuary Monitoring Program

**Project Location:** Statewide

**Project Description:** The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is issuing a permit to Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a) to sample fish statewide for the California Estuary Monitoring Program. The Section 2081(a) permit authorizes the MLML to incidentally take Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) during the course of its sampling subject to terms and conditions set forth in the permit. The purpose of this assessment is to determine the condition of various estuary marine protected areas within California and compare to reference estuaries and determine the threats to marine life in the various estuaries. Covered methods of take are limited to a beach seine.

**California Public Agency Approving Project:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:** Ross Clark, Principle Investigator, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial;
- Declared Emergency;
- Emergency Project;
- Categorical Exemption. Type and section number: Section 15306, Information Collection, Class 6.

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The Project involves research and the collection of information pertaining to management and human health which will not result in a serious or major disturbance to Coho Salmon south of Punta Gorda, *Oncorhynchus kisutch*, an endangered species, Coho Salmon, *O. Kisutch*, north of Punta Gorda, a threatened species.

**Lead Agency Contact Person:** Arn Aarreberg      Area Code/Telephone/ Extension: (707) 791-4195

**Signature:**  \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** 2/25/2021

*Craig Shuman, Regional Manager, Marine Region*

Signed by Lead Agency      Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_